

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Entry of the foregoing and favorable reconsideration and reexamination of the subject matter, as amended, pursuant to and consistent with 37 C.F.R. §112 and in light of the remarks that follow are respectfully requested.

By the present amendment, claims 56 to 67 and 82 to 84 have been deleted solely to expedite the prosecution of the present application and not to acquiesce to the Examiner's rejections. Applicants reserve their right to file a continuation application directed to the canceled subject matter.

Claims 56 to 67 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C § 102(b) as being anticipated by Menozzi et al. These claims have been canceled, which should render this rejection now moot.

Claims 68 to 70 and 82 to 84 have been objected to as being dependent from rejected claims.

Claim 68 has been rewritten in independent form, by inserting the content of claim 66. Claims 82 to 84 have been canceled since they are duplicate claims of claims 68 to 70.

Thus, withdrawal of this objection is respectfully requested.

From the foregoing, favorable action in the form of a Notice of Allowance is respectfully requested and such action is earnestly solicited.

MENOZZI et al
Appl. No. 09/192,579
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Respectfully submitted,

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